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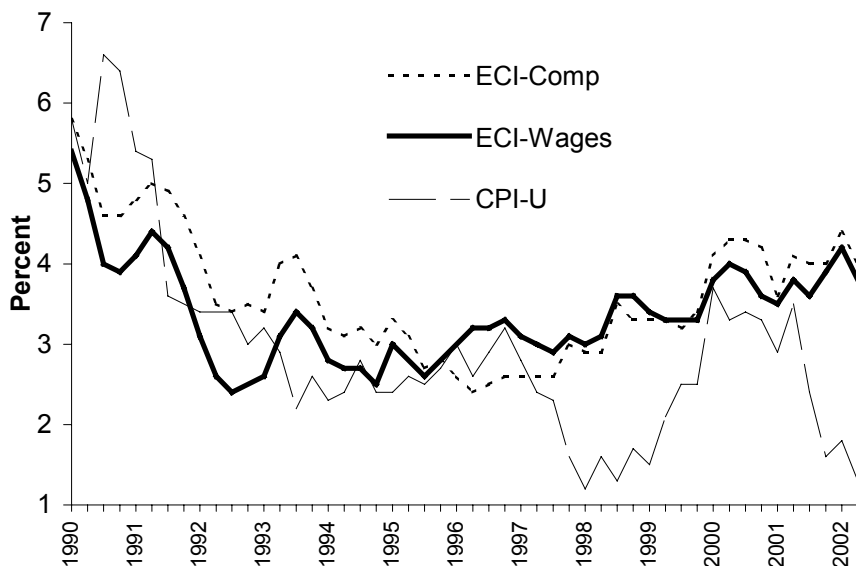
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EMPLOYMENT COST INDEX FOR THE NORTHEAST – JUNE 2002

The Employment Cost Index (ECI) for total compensation for private nonfarm workers in the Northeast Region increased 4.0 percent over the year ended June 2002, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Denis M. McSweeney, the Bureau's regional commissioner, noted that following the 4.4 percent increase reported in March, the latest advance was identical to those posted in September and December of 2001. The ECI for wages and salaries, a component of the total index, was up 3.8 percent over the year.

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in the Employment Cost Indexes for private industry workers, compensation and wages and salaries, and the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, Northeast region, 1990-2002



Both ECI series continued to rise more rapidly than prices. The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the Northeast rose 1.3 percent since last June, 2.7 percentage points less than the increase in total compensation costs and 2.5 percentage points less than the increase in wages and salaries for the region.

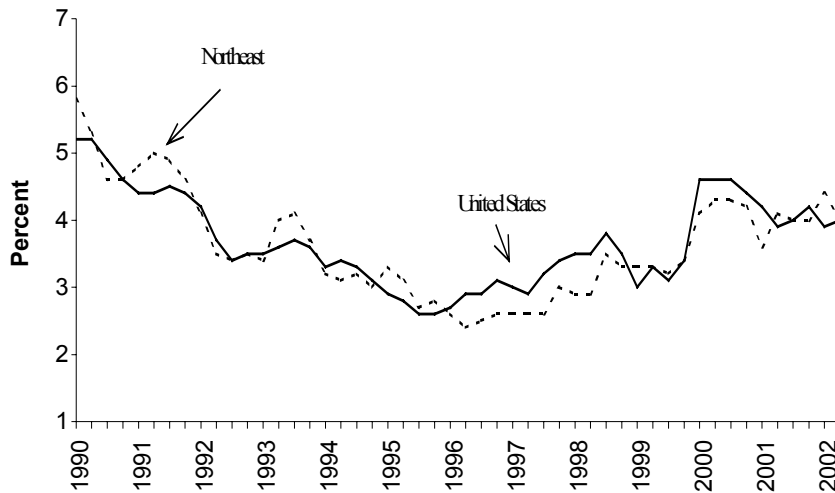
The increase in the CPI-U for the Northeast has been lower than that for the ECI over the last five years. Since June 1997, the CPI-U has increased 12.5 percent compared with 20.1 percent for the ECI for total compensation and 19.3 percent for wages and salaries.

Trends in Compensation Costs

The U.S. rate of increase in overall compensation for private industry workers was 4.0 percent in June 2002; since first quarter 2001, the 12-month increases fell in a very narrow band, ranging from 3.9 to 4.2 percent. Although the over-the-year increases for the U.S. and the Northeast have generally trended together over the last decade, since March 2001 the 12-month increases in the Northeast region ranged from 3.6 to 4.4 percent. (See table 1 and chart 2.)

The 3.5 percent 12-month increase for total compensation reported in the South was the lowest among the regions. The Northeast had a 4.0 percent increase, followed by the Midwest's 4.2 percent. The 4.4 percent increase reported in the West was the highest among the regions. The pace of increase rose slightly in the South and Midwest, with the West posting the largest increase. Only the Northeast's rate of increase slowed from March 2002.

Chart 2. Over-the-year percent change in ECI for compensation, private industry workers, U.S. and Northeast census region, 1990-2002.

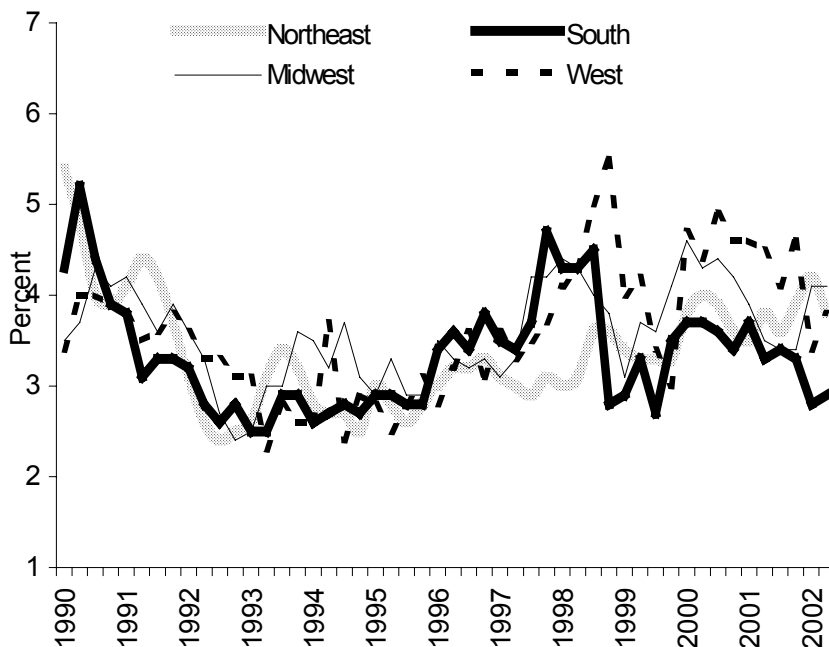


Components of Compensation Costs

Total compensation consists of wages and salaries along with employee benefits. Throughout the U.S., benefit costs increased 5.1 percent between June 2001 and June 2002, slightly more than the 4.8 percent increase from June 2000 to June 2001.

The 12-month advance in wages and salaries in the U.S. was 3.6 percent, up slightly from the 3.5 percent reported in March. The South had the lowest regional increase at 2.9 percent, followed by the Northeast and West at 3.8 percent and the Midwest at 4.1 percent. (See table 2 and chart 3.)

Chart 3. Over-the-year percent change in ECI for wages and salaries, private industry workers, census regions, 1990-2002



Data are also available for the United States as a whole on a seasonally adjusted basis. Over the last three months, the compensation costs index increased 1.1 percent, while the wages and salaries index rose 1.0 percent. Benefit costs increased 1.4 percent, following a 1.1 percent gain in March 2002.

The Northeast Region includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont. The Employment Cost Index measures changes over time in wages and salaries and in total compensation for a standard mix of labor services. It is available in index number form (June 1989=100) permitting expanded use for wage and salary administration.

In addition to these regional data, a comprehensive national report is available that provides data by industry, occupational group, union status, and all metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas combined. This report also presents data for both private and state and local government employees. The report on the Employment Cost Index and further technical information may be obtained from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, JFK Federal Building – Room E-310, Government Center, Boston, Massachusetts, 02203 or via fax-on-demand at (617) 565-9167, request code 4110 for the text of the release, 4115 for tables 1 through 4, 4120 for tables 5 through 7, 4125 for table 8, and 4190 for explanatory notes. Requests may be faxed to (617) 565-4182. The release is also available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.bls.gov/ncs/ect/home.htm>. The ECI for September 2002 is scheduled to be released Thursday, October 31, 2002, at 8:30 a.m. (EDT).

TECHNICAL NOTE: The Employment Cost Index (ECI) is a measure of the change in the cost of labor, free from the influence of employment shifts among occupations and industries. The compensation series includes changes in wages and salaries and employer costs for employee benefits. The ECI wage and salary series is limited to changes in wage and salary rates, defined as straight-time average hourly earnings. Straight-time wage and salary rates are total earnings before payroll deductions, excluding premium pay for overtime, work on weekends and holidays, and shift differentials. Production, hiring and referral bonuses, incentive earnings, commission payments, and cost-of-living adjustments are included in straight-time earnings, whereas nonproduction bonuses (such as Christmas or year-end bonuses) are excluded. Also excluded are such items as payments-in-kind, free room and board, and tips.

Since the March 1995 news release, ECI estimates are based on 1990 counts of occupational employment by industry, rather than on 1980 employment counts. The ECI sample is rotated over approximately five years to make it more representative and reduce respondent burden. The sample is replaced on a cross-area, cross-industry basis.

Seasonally adjusted indexes for 1997-2001 were revised with the March 2002 estimates to reflect updated seasonal factors. New seasonally adjusted factors for 2002 and revised seasonally adjusted indexes for the past five years are available on the Internet at <http://www.bls.gov/ect/home.htm> or upon request.

Table 1. Employment Cost Index for total compensation¹, private industry workers², United States and Census regions, 1989-2002, not seasonally adjusted

Month and year	U.S.	Index (June 1989=100)				U.S.	3-month percent change				U.S.	12-month percent change			
		North-east	South	Mid-west	West		North-east	South	Mid-west	West		North-east	South	Mid-west	West
1989-March	98.8	98.7	99.0	98.9	98.8	1.2	2.1	0.9	1.0	1.1	4.6	6.8	4.1	3.7	3.6
-June	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	1.2	1.3	1.0	1.1	1.2	4.5	6.6	3.4	4.0	3.8
-September	101.2	101.8	101.2	101.0	101.0	1.2	1.8	1.2	1.0	1.0	4.8	7.2	3.9	4.1	4.1
-December	102.3	102.9	102.2	101.9	101.8	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.8	4.8	6.4	4.2	4.1	4.2
1990-March	103.9	104.4	104.0	103.5	103.3	1.6	1.5	1.8	1.6	1.5	5.2	5.8	5.1	4.7	4.6
-June	105.2	105.3	105.7	104.8	104.5	1.3	0.9	1.6	1.3	1.2	5.2	5.3	5.7	4.8	4.5
-September	106.2	106.5	106.3	106.3	105.6	1.0	1.1	0.6	1.4	1.1	4.9	4.6	5.0	5.2	4.6
-December	107.0	107.6	106.9	107.1	106.3	0.8	1.0	0.6	0.8	0.7	4.6	4.6	4.6	5.1	4.4
1991-March	108.5	109.4	108.4	108.5	107.5	1.4	1.7	1.4	1.3	1.1	4.4	4.8	4.2	4.8	4.1
-June	109.8	110.6	109.8	109.7	108.9	1.2	1.1	1.3	1.1	1.3	4.4	5.0	3.9	4.7	4.2
-September	111.0	111.7	110.7	111.2	110.0	1.1	1.0	0.8	1.4	1.0	4.5	4.9	4.1	4.6	4.2
-December	111.7	112.5	111.2	112.2	110.9	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.9	0.8	4.4	4.6	4.0	4.8	4.3
1992-March	113.1	113.9	112.5	113.8	111.9	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.4	0.9	4.2	4.1	3.8	4.9	4.1
-June	113.9	114.5	113.3	114.6	112.9	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.9	3.7	3.5	3.2	4.5	3.7
-September	114.8	115.5	114.1	115.3	114.1	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.6	1.1	3.4	3.4	3.1	3.7	3.7
-December	115.6	116.4	114.8	116.1	114.9	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.7	3.5	3.5	3.2	3.5	3.6
1993-March	117.1	117.8	116.2	117.9	116.2	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.6	1.1	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.6	3.8
-June	118.0	119.1	117.0	119.3	116.4	0.8	1.1	0.7	1.2	0.2	3.6	4.0	3.3	4.1	3.1
-September	119.1	120.2	118.1	120.1	117.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.7	1.2	3.7	4.1	3.5	4.2	3.2
-December	119.8	120.7	118.8	121.2	118.1	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.9	0.3	3.6	3.7	3.5	4.4	2.8
1994-March	121.0	121.6	120.0	122.8	119.4	1.0	0.7	1.0	1.3	1.1	3.3	3.2	3.3	4.2	2.8
-June	122.0	122.8	120.8	123.6	120.5	0.8	1.0	0.7	0.7	0.9	3.4	3.1	3.2	3.6	3.5
-September	123.0	124.0	121.8	124.6	121.3	0.8	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.7	3.3	3.2	3.1	3.7	3.0
-December	123.5	124.3	122.5	125.0	121.7	0.4	0.2	0.6	0.3	0.3	3.1	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.0
1995-March	124.5	125.6	123.7	125.8	122.6	0.8	1.0	1.0	0.6	0.7	2.9	3.3	3.1	2.4	2.7
-June	125.4	126.6	124.3	126.9	123.4	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.9	0.7	2.8	3.1	2.9	2.7	2.4
-September	126.2	127.4	125.2	127.7	123.9	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.4	2.6	2.7	2.8	2.5	2.1
-December	126.7	127.8	125.6	128.3	125.0	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.9	2.6	2.8	2.5	2.6	2.7
1996-March	127.9	128.9	127.0	129.5	125.9	0.9	0.9	1.1	0.9	0.7	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.9	2.7
-June	129.0	129.7	127.8	130.7	127.3	0.9	0.6	0.6	0.9	1.1	2.9	2.4	2.8	3.0	3.2
-September	129.8	130.6	128.8	131.3	128.3	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.8	2.9	2.5	2.9	2.8	3.6
-December	130.6	131.1	129.7	132.1	128.9	0.6	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.5	3.1	2.6	3.3	3.0	3.1
1997-March	131.7	132.2	130.8	133.3	130.3	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	1.1	3.0	2.6	3.0	2.9	3.5
-June	132.8	133.1	131.5	134.7	131.4	0.8	0.7	0.5	1.1	0.8	2.9	2.6	2.9	3.1	3.2
-September	133.9	134.0	132.5	136.2	132.5	0.8	0.7	0.8	1.1	0.8	3.2	2.6	2.9	3.7	3.3
-December	135.1	135.0	134.6	136.9	133.4	0.9	0.7	1.6	0.5	0.7	3.4	3.0	3.8	3.6	3.5
1998-March	136.3	136.0	135.5	138.3	135.2	0.9	0.7	0.7	1.0	1.3	3.5	2.9	3.6	3.8	3.8
-June	137.5	137.0	136.4	139.6	136.6	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.9	1.0	3.5	2.9	3.7	3.6	4.0
-September	139.0	138.7	137.6	140.9	138.5	1.1	1.2	0.9	0.9	1.4	3.8	3.5	3.8	3.5	4.5
-December	139.8	139.5	138.1	141.4	140.0	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.4	1.1	3.5	3.3	2.6	3.3	4.9
1999-March	140.4	140.5	139.1	141.7	140.3	0.4	0.7	0.7	0.2	0.2	3.0	3.3	2.7	2.5	3.8
-June	142.0	141.5	140.7	143.6	142.1	1.1	0.7	1.2	1.3	1.3	3.3	3.3	3.2	2.9	4.0
-September	143.3	143.2	141.8	145.0	143.3	0.9	1.2	0.8	1.0	0.8	3.1	3.2	3.1	2.9	3.5
-December	144.6	144.3	143.0	146.3	144.7	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.9	1.0	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.4
2000-March	146.8	146.3	145.0	148.9	147.0	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.8	1.6	4.6	4.1	4.2	5.1	4.8
-June	148.5	147.6	146.7	150.7	148.8	1.2	0.9	1.2	1.2	1.2	4.6	4.3	4.3	4.9	4.7
-September	149.9	149.3	147.6	152.2	150.8	0.9	1.2	0.6	1.0	1.3	4.6	4.3	4.1	5.0	5.2
-December	150.9	150.3	148.6	153.3	151.8	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	4.4	4.2	3.9	4.8	4.9
2001-March	153.0	151.6	151.1	154.8	154.3	1.4	0.9	1.7	1.0	1.6	4.2	3.6	4.2	4.0	5.0
-June	154.5	153.7	152.3	156.0	156.0	1.0	1.4	0.8	0.8	1.1	4.0	4.1	3.8	3.5	4.8
-September	155.9	155.2	153.5	157.4	157.6	0.9	1.0	0.8	0.9	1.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.4	4.5
-December	157.2	156.3	154.6	158.6	159.4	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.8	1.1	4.2	4.0	4.0	3.5	5.0
2002-March	158.9	158.3	156.2	161.1	160.4	1.1	1.3	1.0	1.6	0.6	3.9	4.4	3.4	4.1	4.0
-June	160.7	159.9	157.6	162.6	162.9	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.9	1.6	4.0	4.0	3.5	4.2	4.4

¹ The index measures change in total compensation costs: wages, salaries, and employer costs for employee benefits.

² Excludes self-employed, unpaid family members and private household employees.

Table 2. Employment Cost Index for wages and salaries only, private industry workers¹, United States and Census regions, 1989-2002, not seasonally adjusted

Month and year	U.S.	Index (June 1989=100)				3-month percent change					12-month percent change				
		North-east	South	Mid-west	West	U.S.	North-east	South	Mid-west	West	U.S.	North-east	South	Mid-west	West
1989-March	99.0	98.7	99.2	99.1	99.1	1.0	1.9	0.8	0.9	0.9	4.2	6.5	3.7	3.3	3.3
-June	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	1.0	1.3	0.8	0.9	0.9	4.1	6.4	2.9	3.6	3.4
-September	101.2	101.8	101.2	100.8	100.8	1.2	1.8	1.2	0.8	0.8	4.3	7.0	3.4	3.5	3.2
-December	102.0	102.9	102.1	101.6	101.4	0.8	1.1	0.9	0.8	0.6	4.1	6.2	3.8	3.5	3.3
1990-March	103.2	104.0	103.5	102.6	102.5	1.2	1.1	1.4	1.0	1.1	4.2	5.4	4.3	3.5	3.4
-June	104.5	104.8	105.2	103.7	104.0	1.3	0.8	1.6	1.1	1.5	4.5	4.8	5.2	3.7	4.0
-September	105.4	105.9	105.7	105.1	104.8	0.9	1.0	0.5	1.4	0.8	4.2	4.0	4.4	4.3	4.0
-December	106.1	106.9	106.1	105.8	105.4	0.7	0.9	0.4	0.7	0.6	4.0	3.9	3.9	4.1	3.9
1991-March	107.3	108.3	107.4	106.9	106.4	1.1	1.3	1.2	1.0	0.9	4.0	4.1	3.8	4.2	3.8
-June	108.4	109.4	108.5	107.7	107.6	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.7	1.1	3.7	4.4	3.1	3.9	3.5
-September	109.3	110.3	109.2	108.9	108.6	0.8	0.8	0.6	1.1	0.9	3.7	4.2	3.3	3.6	3.6
-December	110.0	110.9	109.6	109.9	109.4	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.9	0.7	3.7	3.7	3.3	3.9	3.8
1992-March	110.9	111.7	110.8	110.7	110.2	0.8	0.7	1.1	0.7	0.7	3.4	3.1	3.2	3.6	3.6
-June	111.6	112.2	111.5	111.3	111.1	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.8	3.0	2.6	2.8	3.3	3.3
-September	112.2	113.0	112.0	111.8	112.2	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.4	1.0	2.7	2.4	2.6	2.7	3.3
-December	112.9	113.7	112.7	112.5	112.8	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	2.6	2.5	2.8	2.4	3.1
1993-March	113.9	114.6	113.6	113.5	113.6	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.7	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.5	3.1
-June	114.6	115.7	114.3	114.6	113.7	0.6	1.0	0.6	1.0	0.1	2.7	3.1	2.5	3.0	2.3
-September	115.7	116.8	115.3	115.2	115.3	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.5	1.4	3.1	3.4	2.9	3.0	2.8
-December	116.4	117.3	116.0	116.5	115.7	0.6	0.4	0.6	1.1	0.3	3.1	3.2	2.9	3.6	2.6
1994-March	117.2	117.8	116.6	117.5	116.6	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.9	0.8	2.9	2.8	2.6	3.5	2.6
-June	118.1	118.8	117.4	118.3	117.9	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7	1.1	3.1	2.7	2.7	3.2	3.7
-September	119.1	120.0	118.5	119.5	118.1	0.8	1.0	0.9	1.0	0.2	2.9	2.7	2.8	3.7	2.4
-December	119.7	120.2	119.1	120.1	119.0	0.5	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.8	2.8	2.5	2.7	3.1	2.9
1995-March	120.6	121.3	120.0	120.9	119.9	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.8	2.9	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.8
-June	121.5	122.1	120.8	122.2	120.9	0.7	0.7	0.7	1.1	0.8	2.9	2.8	2.9	3.3	2.5
-September	122.4	123.1	121.8	123.0	121.4	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.4	2.8	2.6	2.8	2.9	2.8
-December	123.1	123.6	122.4	123.6	122.7	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.5	1.1	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.9	3.1
1996-March	124.4	124.9	124.1	125.1	123.3	1.1	1.1	1.4	1.2	0.5	3.2	3.0	3.4	3.5	2.8
-June	125.6	126.0	125.1	126.2	124.8	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.9	1.2	3.4	3.2	3.6	3.3	3.2
-September	126.5	127.0	126.0	126.9	125.8	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.8	3.3	3.2	3.4	3.2	3.6
-December	127.3	127.7	127.0	127.7	126.5	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.6	0.6	3.4	3.3	3.8	3.3	3.1
1997-March	128.6	128.8	128.5	129.0	127.7	1.0	0.9	1.2	1.0	0.9	3.4	3.1	3.5	3.1	3.6
-June	129.7	129.8	129.4	130.4	128.9	0.9	0.8	0.7	1.1	0.9	3.3	3.0	3.4	3.3	3.3
-September	131.0	130.7	130.6	132.2	130.2	1.0	0.7	0.9	1.4	1.0	3.6	2.9	3.7	4.2	3.5
-December	132.3	131.6	133.0	133.0	131.2	1.0	0.7	1.8	0.6	0.8	3.9	3.1	4.7	4.2	3.7
1998-March	133.7	132.6	134.0	134.7	132.9	1.1	0.8	0.8	1.3	1.3	4.0	3.0	4.3	4.4	4.1
-June	134.9	133.8	134.9	136.0	134.5	0.9	0.9	0.7	1.0	1.2	4.0	3.1	4.3	4.3	4.3
-September	136.6	135.4	136.5	137.5	136.7	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.6	4.3	3.6	4.5	4.0	5.0
-December	137.4	136.4	136.7	138.0	138.4	0.6	0.7	0.1	0.4	1.2	3.9	3.6	2.8	3.8	5.5
1999-March	138.1	137.1	137.9	138.9	138.2	0.5	0.5	0.9	0.7	-0.1	3.3	3.4	2.9	3.1	4.0
-June	139.7	138.2	139.4	141.0	140.2	1.2	0.8	1.1	1.5	1.4	3.6	3.3	3.3	3.7	4.2
-September	141.0	139.9	140.2	142.4	141.3	0.9	1.2	0.6	1.0	0.8	3.2	3.3	2.7	3.6	3.4
-December	142.2	140.9	141.5	143.6	142.6	0.9	0.7	0.9	0.8	0.9	3.5	3.3	3.5	4.1	3.0
2000-March	143.9	142.3	143.0	145.3	144.7	1.2	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.5	4.2	3.8	3.7	4.6	4.7
-June	145.4	143.7	144.6	147.1	146.3	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.1	4.1	4.0	3.7	4.3	4.4
-September	146.8	145.3	145.3	148.6	148.2	1.0	1.1	0.5	1.0	1.3	4.1	3.9	3.6	4.4	4.9
-December	147.7	146.0	146.3	149.6	149.2	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.7	3.9	3.6	3.4	4.2	4.6
2001-March	149.4	147.3	148.3	150.9	151.3	1.2	0.9	1.4	0.9	1.4	3.8	3.5	3.7	3.9	4.6
-June	150.9	149.2	149.3	152.3	152.9	1.0	1.3	0.7	0.9	1.1	3.8	3.8	3.3	3.5	4.5
-September	152.1	150.6	150.2	153.6	154.3	0.8	0.9	0.6	0.9	0.9	3.6	3.6	3.4	3.4	4.1
-December	153.3	151.7	151.2	154.7	156.0	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7	1.1	3.8	3.9	3.3	3.4	4.6
2002-March	154.7	153.5	152.5	157.1	156.4	0.9	1.2	0.9	1.6	0.3	3.5	4.2	2.8	4.1	3.4
-June	156.3	154.9	153.6	158.5	158.7	1.0	0.9	0.7	0.9	1.5	3.6	3.8	2.9	4.1	3.8

¹Excludes self-employed, unpaid family members and private household employees.